

There are four alternatives for library service in New Bern:

1. Withdrawal from the regional library with the establishment of an independent City Library. The costs involved in this would be prohibitive.
2. Allow library service to become a County function. This would mean withdrawal of all City funds from the library. This would be an ill-advised move for a city of this size.
3. The formation of a City-County Library with the central library in New Bern, branches in smaller communities and bookmobile service for the rural areas.
4. Remain a part of the regional library and assume vigorous leadership for better library service throughout the system.

Alternatives Three and Four would appear to be adequate solutions at this time. Irrespective of the choice made by the City, the following are the minimum library facilities that should be provided:

1. Revision of Local and Regional Boards. The Local Board should be reduced to ten members and appointed by the City Council. In the initial appointment of these board members, two members should be appointed for terms of one, two, three, four, and five years each. This would avoid any major change in the composition of the Local Board. An agreement should be made between the City of New Bern and Craven County whereby at least one member of the Local Library Board of New Bern shall be appointed by the Craven County Commissioners to the Regional Library Board.
2. A New Library Building. The central collection, in order to properly serve the public, should be located in the Central Business District. This has been recognized by experts on library location to be the most advantageous location since library stops are incidental to shopping and business. In New Bern, the ideal library location would be on Middle Street between its intersections with Broad Street and Tryon Palace Drive. The closer to this ideal location, the greater the use of the facility according to past experience in other communities. Primary and secondary relocation areas are shown on the map on the opposite page. Other locations would not be as desirable.
3. Abandonment of Branch. With the establishment of a properly-located central library, it will be unnecessary to maintain duplicate service at a branch library within the City. This branch should be discontinued.
4. Bookmobile Service Within the City. While New Bern is too small to justify its own bookmobile, the system is in need of the services of another unit. A bookmobile should make regular stops in areas of high-density residential development and shopping centers within the City. Various combinations of stops should be tested to determine which will produce the greatest circulation.